

- 10. Methylthioadenosine phosphorylase (MTAse) encoded by the nucleic acid whose nucleotide sequence is set forth in SEQ. ID NO.1, wherein the nucleic acid is expressed by a recombinant expression vector.
- 11. A recombinant expression vector containing peptide encoding fragments of the polynucleotide of Claim 7.
- 12. MTAse peptides expressed by the recombinant expression vector of Claim 11.
- 13. Antibodies produced through immunization of an animal with the MTAse peptides of Claim 12.
- 14. Antibodies according to Claim 13 wherein the antibodies are monoclonal antibodies produced by hybridomas formed from cells of the immunized animals.
 - 15. Synthetic MTAse or MTAse peptide fragments.
- 16. Antibodies produced through immunization of an animal with the MTAse or MTAse peptide fragments of Claim 15.